

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1 and 3 as follows.

Please **CANCEL** claim 6.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (currently amended) A spinning reel comprising:
 - a reel body having a front side and a rear side;
 - a handle rotatably supported to the reel body;
 - a spool positioned at the front side of the reel body for winding therearound a fishing line;
 - a rotor rotatably supported on the front side of the reel body and rotatable upon rotation of the handle;
 - a bail support arm provided at the rotor;
 - a bail arm lever pivotally supported to the bail support arm;
 - a line slider connected to the bail arm lever; and
 - a line roller mechanism provided between the bail arm lever and the line slider for guiding travel of the fishing line toward the spool, the line roller mechanism comprising[[;]]:
 - a generally cylindrical fishing line guide surface portion along which the fishing line is guided, the fishing line guide surface extending in its axial direction;
 - a first guide section positioned in association with the bail arm lever and near the fishing line guide surface, the first guide section having a first nipping surface;
 - a second guide section positioned in association with the line slider and near the fishing line guide surface, the first and the second guide sections being arrayed arranged side by side in the axial direction, and the second guide section having a second nipping surface positioned in confrontation with the first nipping surface for pinching the fishing line between the first and second nipping surfaces, one of the first guide section and the second guide section being

slidably movable in the axial direction relative to the remaining one of the first guide section and the second guide section; and

a biasing member that biases one of the first guide section and the second guide section toward the remaining one of the first guide section and the second guide section,

wherein the fishing line guide surface portion is inclined to urge the fishing line toward a direction for moving one of the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface away from the remaining one of the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface against a biasing force of the biasing member when a tension of the fishing line guided along the fishing line guide surface portion and between the first and second nipping surfaces exceeds a predetermined tension, whereby a fishing line nipping force defined between the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface is nullified.

2. (original) The spinning reel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface define therebetween a fishing line guide groove, a width of the fishing line guide groove in the axial direction being gradually reduced from the front side to the rear side.

3. (currently amended) The spinning reel as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface comprises [[a]] the inclined surface to provide the width of the fishing line guide groove, and one of the first guide section and the second guide section having the inclined surface being rotatable relative to associated one of the bail arm lever and the line slider; and further comprising:

means for fixing an angular rotational position of the one of the first guide section and the second guide section with respect to the associated one of the bail arm lever and the line slider

for changing a position of the inclined surface, whereby a fishing line nipping force defined between the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface is controllable.

4. (original) The spinning reel as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the first guide section and the second guide section provides an axial position changeable with respect to the associated one of the bail arm lever and the line slider, the axial position being in the axial direction of the fishing line guide surface portion, whereby a nipping force defined between the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface is controllable.

5. (original) The spinning reel as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for changing a biasing force of the biasing member.

6. (currently canceled)